

ACTING GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI PROCLAIMS STATE OF EMERGENCY IN EL DORADO COUNTY

SACRAMENTO - Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi today declared a State of Emergency in El Dorado County in response to the Angora Fire near Lake Tahoe. In his capacity as Acting Governor, Garamendi signed the emergency proclamation to provide state funding for firefighting and infrastructure repair costs. Garamendi has been in communication with the Governor since the fire broke out yesterday and discussed today's actions with him prior to declaring the state of emergency.

"California is quickly marshalling its resources to ensure that the lives and property of area residents are protected," Garamendi stated. "We will continue to do whatever is necessary to assist our brave firefighters in this effort."

The Angora Fire, which started Sunday morning, has burned nearly 2,500 acres and hundreds of structures, and lead to several community evacuations in the area. The wildfire is less than 10 percent contained.

Garamendi, who has been working in coordination with the Governor and his staff, was joined at the morning press conference by Henry Renteria, Office of Emergency Services Director, and Ken Pimlott, CalFire Assistant Deputy Director of Cooperative Fire Protection and Training Safety.

The text of the Acting Governor's State of Emergency proclamation:
PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS conditions of extreme peril to public health and safety of persons and property exists within the County of El Dorado caused by the wildfires commencing on June 24, 2007 and continuing; and

WHEREAS on June 24, 2007 El Dorado County declared a local emergency and requested a state proclamation of emergency as the result of wildfires destroying homes and causing the evacuation of area residents; and

WHEREAS thousands of acres and hundreds of structures have already burned, including residential property, and there is imminent danger to additional homes, structures, and to

important watershed areas; and

WHEREAS on June 24, 2007 the Office of Emergency Services requested a federal Fire Management Assistance Grant at the request of El Dorado County to ensure financial resources are available to rapidly attack the fire and reimburse critical firefighting costs; and

WHEREAS the circumstances of this wildfire, by reason of their magnitude, are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of any single county, city and county, or city and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to combat; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of section 8558(b) of the California Government Code, I find that conditions of extreme peril exist due to the fires in El Dorado County.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Garamendi, Acting Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the state Constitution and the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, section 8625 of the California Government Code, HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY to exist within El Dorado County.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all agencies of the state government utilize and employ state personnel, equipment and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of the Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the State Emergency Plan, and that OES provide local government assistance under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this proclamation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 25th Day of June 2007.

JOHN GARAMENDI
Acting Governor of California

ATTEST:

DEBRA BOWEN
Secretary of State

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Norman D. Williams
Office: 916 / 445-8994